

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
for implementation of the
DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge
Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment
Nebraska and Iowa

For the reasons presented below and based on a review and evaluation of the information and data contained in the supporting reference, I have determined that implementing Alternative D of the Environmental Assessment associated with the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. An environmental impact statement will, accordingly, not be prepared.

Reasons:

Management goals, objectives, and strategies were not significantly changed, but future programs and uses allows the Refuge to be managed in a more natural and diverse manner while supporting the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System and ensuring that management is consistent with federal, state, and county plans.

Implementation of Alternative D would allow management to seek the best or optimal balance between the competing ideals of wildlife conservation and public use.

The proposed management plan will utilize an ecosystem approach which will benefit a diversity of fish and wildlife, including endangered and threatened species and their habitats.

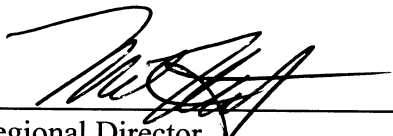
Opportunities for wildlife-dependent activities such as observation, photography, hunting, fishing, environmental education, and interpretation will be enhanced.

Following the recommendations in the CCP will ensure that Refuge management is consistent with the mandates of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

No adverse economic impact on the local community will occur as a result of implementation of Alternative D and the CCP. Cropland reduction will phase out over time by attrition of participants.

Supporting Reference:

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and
Environmental Assessment, Washington County, Nebraska and Harrison and
Pottawattamie Counties, Iowa



Regional Director

1-24-01
Date